

Fidalgo Bay Land Use

Historic & Cultural Sites

Three archeological sites within and adjacent to the identified Fidalgo Bay reserve recorded with the Washington State Office of Archeological and Historic Preservation:

An 80 X 30-yard, 2 to 3-foot thick shell midden near Weaverling spit. This site was destroyed by diking, erosion and landfill.

A 75 X 33-yard, 5-foot deep shell midden near Weaverling spit.

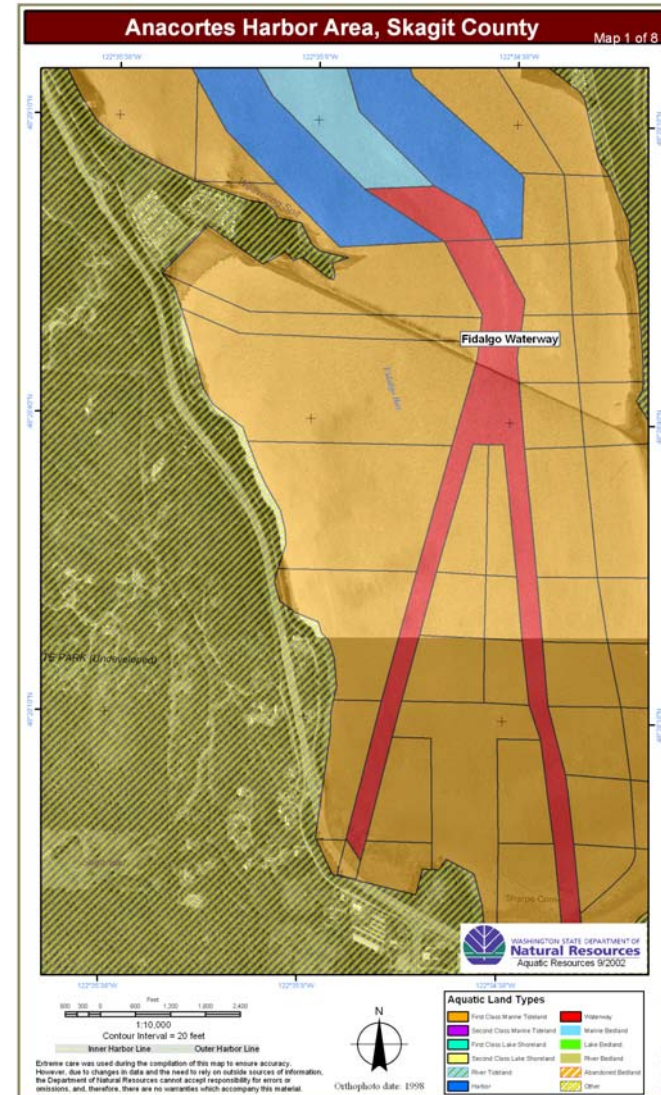
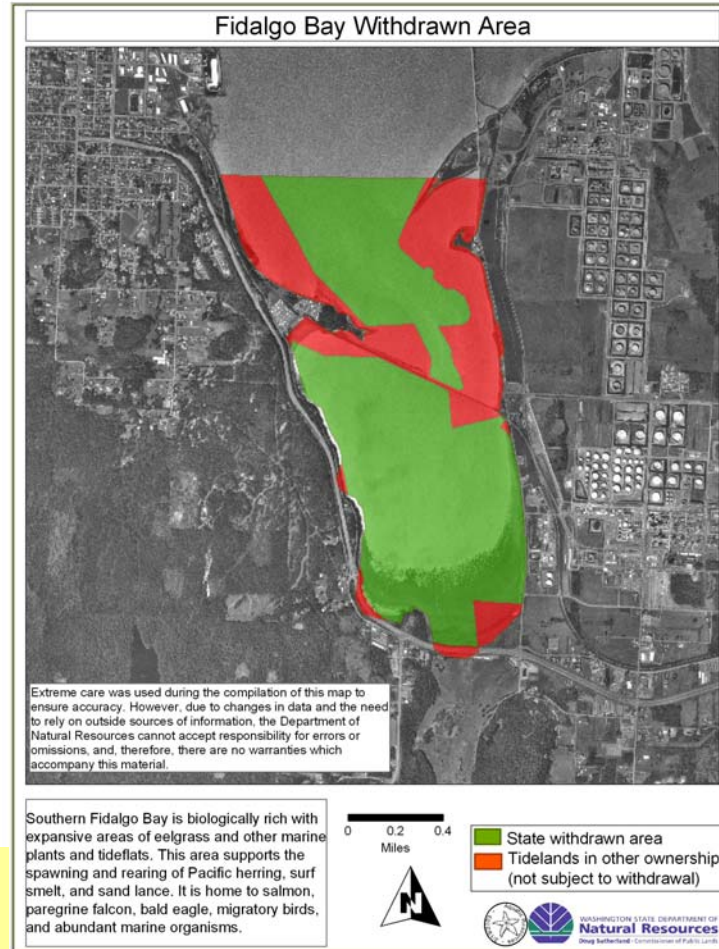
An 80 X 15-yard, 3-foot thick shell midden along the eastern shore of the reserve. Fire modified rock, shell and occasional flaked stone implements are found in the intertidal zone.

Shoreline Zoning & Land Use

The reserve is within Anacortes city limits. Shoreline zoning along the reserve's western and southern sections is light industrial. Residential development is limited to 1 unit per 3 acres.

Presently, ten single-family residences and the 12-acre Fidalgo Bay RV Resort are located along the western and southern shore of the reserve.

The adjacent upland of the eastern shore is zoned heavy manufacturing. Two oil refineries operate in this area. However, the upland area directly adjacent to the eastern shoreline of the reserve is used for hay and pasture and provides a buffer to these more intensive upland uses.



Proposed Restoration

Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Texaco Oil spills into Fidalgo Bay in 1991 and 1992 – The Texaco Oil Spills Natural Resource Trustees

The preferred restoration alternative in the draft plan is the acquisition from willing sellers of selected available properties within the bay that are necessary to support forage fish spawning. Of interest are sites with either existing high quality spawning habitats or degraded habitats with high potential to support forage fish spawning when restored. Areas of interest include all the privately owned tidelands adjacent to the reserve north of the trestle.

Plan for Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement in the Fidalgo/Guemes Area June 2000 – City of Anacortes

“High priorities” defined in the plan within or adjacent to the reserve include:

- Remove dike and creosote-treated logs from Crandall Spit.
- Redesign City-owned railroad trestle to reduce impacts.
- Rebuild railroad trestle berm at Weaverling Spit.
- Preserve 0.5 miles of surf smelt spawning beach at Weaverling Spit.

Skagit County Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

“Blueprint” for Skagit Bays Conservation/Restoration Sites

This project will type, catalog, and map potential project sites to provide the Skagit MRC with a site-based report to guide future conservation/restoration projects.

Fidalgo Bay outfalls investigation

Outfalls identified in the Skagit MRC Rapid Shorelines Inventory of March Point will be investigated to determine if they are active and pose any threat to water quality in Fidalgo Bay.

Modifications

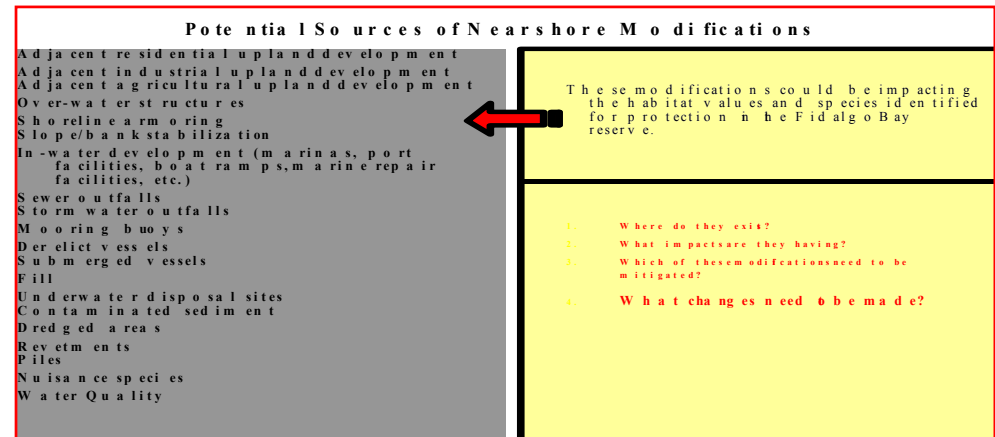


Figure 8.2b: Fidalgo Bay - Filled and dredged areas with historic shoreline and bathymetry.

Aquatic Reserve Management

Management Planning

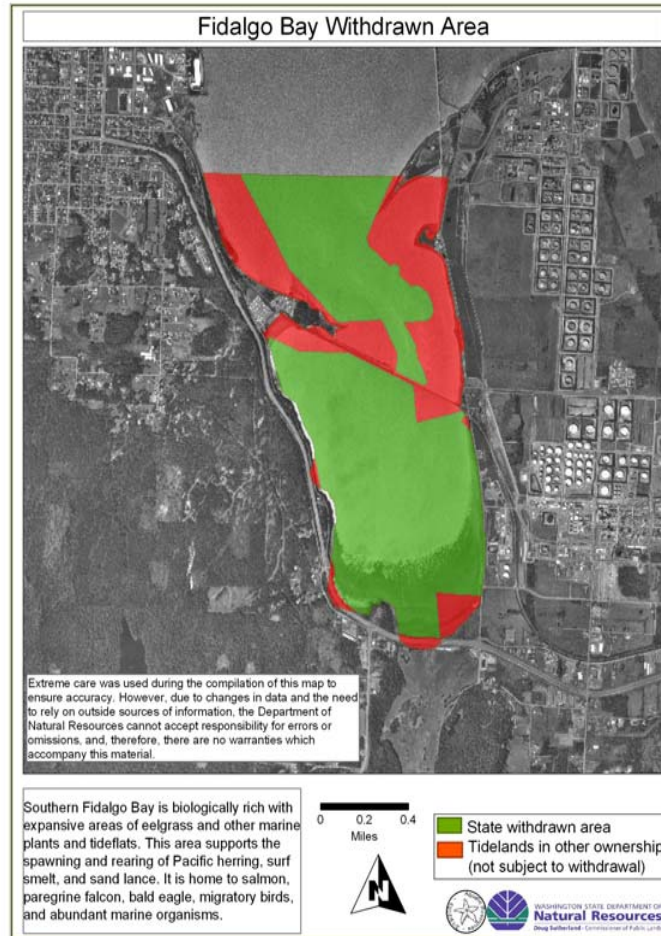
DNR will consult and coordinate with the following groups to develop a management plan and to assist in management of the site:

- Other state government agencies
- Local citizen groups
- Resource managers
- Business interests
- Commercial fishery interests
- User groups
- Environmental organizations
- Watershed councils/basin planning organizations

- Who in each group should be involved?
- Identify their role in:
 1. Developing the management plan, and
 2. Implementing the management plan

Management Actions for Environmental Reserves

- Based on habitat and species considerations, restoration/recovery efforts and cultural resources.
- Provide for adequate protection mechanisms to conserve and or improve biodiversity and ecosystem function.
- Include coordination with other entities.
- Access should be limited to those activities directed at conservation and restoration activities. Lease activities should primarily serve to achieve the objectives of environmental reserves.
- Reserve managers must work with local jurisdictions, regulatory agencies and adjoining landowners to minimize off-site impacts.



Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve

Description

The Fidalgo Bay aquatic reserve area is a shallow marine bay with expanses of eelgrass beds, the southern end includes extensive tideflats. It is bordered on the south and west by state highway 20, to the east by March Point Road and opens to the larger (deepwater) Fidalgo Bay area. An abandoned railroad trestle is situated across the mid-section of the reserve area. The lands south of the trestle are in a conservation easement managed by the Skagit Land Trust.

Purpose for establishing the area as an aquatic reserve

To establish an environmental reserve for conservation and restoration of habitat that will continue to support forage fish spawning, juvenile salmonid migration, Dungeness crab rearing, and support resident bird species and waterfowl. In addition, the reserve is intended to be consistent with Texaco Fidalgo Bay consent decree and the conservation easement recorded for South Fidalgo Bay.

Species

Surf smelt
 Herring
 Sand lance
 Chinook salmon
 Migratory waterfowl
 Bald eagle
 Peregrine falcon
 Blue heron

Habitat

Nearshore fish spawning habitat
 Eelgrass
 Tide flats
 Salt marsh